

Application No. 10/019,624  
Amendment and Response dated July 12, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed April 7, 2005

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp ~~for locking a hose in position relative to the hose clamp, the universal hose clamp comprising:~~

a universal hose locating mechanism ~~comprising, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism includes a first locking mechanism which moves between a locked and an unlocked position; the first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly and a pin having a first axis, wherein the handle assembly rotates relative to the pin in the plane of the pin to move the first locking mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions;~~

a securing means for securing said locating mechanism to a support structure; and

a hose coupling adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the hose coupling is configured to have unlimited rotational movement about ~~an the first axis in a horizontal plane when a the~~ hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism further comprises a second locking mechanism which moves between a locked and an unlocked position such that with ~~a the~~ hose coupled to the hose coupling, and the second locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about ~~an a second axis that is substantially perpendicular to the first axis in a vertical plane.~~

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3. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the ~~first and second locking mechanisms comprises a~~ second handle assembly, a connection means and a second stab pin wherein the first and second locking mechanisms are in the unlocked positions when the respective handle assembly is in a plane parallel to the respective stab pin, and the locked position when the respective handle assembly is rotated to lie in a plane perpendicular to the respective stab pin.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the securing means comprises a first female member suitable for receiving the stab second pin of the ~~second locking mechanism~~ and a base clamping mechanism suitable for clamping the universal hose clamp to a support structure that comprises an existing railing or pole.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the securing means comprises a second female member, suitable for receiving the second stab pin of the ~~second locking mechanism~~, and a portable independent frame.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the portable independent frame is a tripod.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the hose coupling comprises a third female member suitable for receiving the stab first pin of the ~~first locking mechanism~~ thus allowing the hose coupling to be removed from the universal hose locating mechanism when the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position.

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8. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 4, wherein when the second locking mechanism is in the locked position the stab ~~second~~ pin ~~of the second locking~~ mechanism lockably engages with the first female member.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 5, wherein when the second locking mechanism is in the locked position the stab ~~second~~ pin ~~of the second locking~~ mechanism lockably engages with the second female member.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 7, wherein when the first locking mechanism is in the locked position the stab ~~first~~ pin ~~of the first locking~~ mechanism lockably engages with the third female member.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the hose coupling further comprises a gripping aid, a mounting band and a hose securing means.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the gripping aid is made of a flexible material comprising rubber.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the gripping aid is cylindrical in shape.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the mounting band is cylindrical in shape.

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15. **(Previously Presented)** A universal hose clamp as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the hose securing means is a screw thread mechanism.

16-19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Currently Amended)** A universal hose clamp for locking a hose in position relative to the hose clamp, the universal hose clamp comprising:

a universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism ~~includes~~ comprises a first and ~~second~~ locking mechanism which moves between ~~a~~ locked and ~~an~~ unlocked positions;

a securing means for securing said locating mechanism to a support structure; and

a hose coupling ~~adapted to for~~ connecting a ~~the~~ hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism in the unlocked position, wherein the hose coupling is configured to have has unlimited rotational movement about an axis in a horizontal plane over  $4\pi$  steradians when a hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first and second locking mechanisms are in their unlocked positions.

21. **(New)** A universal hose clamp comprising:

a universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism includes a first locking mechanism and a second locking mechanism each of which moves between a locked and an unlocked position, wherein the first and second locking mechanisms comprise a handle assembly, a connection means and a stab pin wherein the first and second locking mechanisms are in the unlocked positions when the

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handle assembly is in a plane parallel to the stab pin, and the locked position when the handle assembly is rotated to lie in a plane perpendicular to the stab pin;

a securing means for securing said locating mechanism to a support structure; and  
a hose coupling adapted to connect a hose to the universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the hose coupling is configured to have unlimited rotational movement about an axis in a horizontal plane when the hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position, and such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling, and the second locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about an axis in a vertical plane.

22. (New) A universal hose clamp comprising:

a universal hose locating mechanism, wherein the universal hose locating mechanism includes a first locking mechanism which moves between a locked and an unlocked position;

a securing means for securing said locating mechanism to a support structure; and  
a hose coupling linked to the universal hose locating mechanism, the hose coupling having unlimited rotational movement about an axis in a horizontal plane when a hose is coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism is in the unlocked position.